

# Lawmakers seek to lower Del. 1 toll

By **NANCY CHARRON**

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Saying the tolls on Del. 1 are too high for commuters, two lawmakers expect to introduce legislation today to lower toll charges.

"Route 1 was designed primarily to move traffic from New Castle County to the shore resorts," said Rep. Gerald A. Buckworth, R-Fairfield Farms.

"I can see charging those occasional travelers two dollars. But, for the people who commute every day, I think we need to do better."

Buckworth also contended the state will never get enough of the traffic off U.S. 13 and onto Del. 1, a major goal, as long as the tolls are so high — \$2 one way from New Castle County to south of Dover.

Buckworth and Rep. Richard Cathcart, R-Grande View Farms, sponsors of H.B. 524, propose giving a 75 percent reduction in tolls for those people living within

five miles of Del. 1 and a 50 percent reduction in tolls for those who commute to work among the counties.

The discount would be available only to those who participate in the E-ZPass automated toll program. Also, it would be used only 250 times a year.

Cathcart doesn't think reduced tolls will cost the state anything.

"I feel the individuals who will benefit from this legislation are not currently using Route 1. If anything, I think toll revenues will increase."

Motorists such as Ray H. Andress, of Smyrna, agree. Andress, who commutes to work at the New Castle County Airport, said taking Del. 1 adds two miles to his trip. But the convenience of no stoplights and lower tolls would persuade him to take Del. 1.

"I think that would be a great idea," Andress said.

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